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Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Interior, relative to the claim of Hugo Wedeles, for depredation committed upon his property in February, 1867, by Arapaho Indians.

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HUGO WEDELES.

LETTER

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

The claim of Hugo Wedeles, for depredation committed upon his property in February, 1867, by Arapaho Indians.

JANUARY 9, 1873.—Referred to the Committee of Claims and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 8, 1873.

SIR: The accompanying claim of Hugo Wedeles, for a depredation committed upon his property in February, 1867, by Arapaho Indians, is submitted to Congress, as required by the seventh section of the act approved 29th May, 1872, entitled "An act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department," &c. [Pamphlet laws, 2d sess., 42d Cong., p. 190.]

The amount claimed is \$8,200.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWEN,
Acting Secretary.

Hon. JAS. G. BLAINE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., June 3, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a claim of Hugo Wedeles, against the Arapaho tribe of Indians, for the value of forty mules and a mare stolen from him by Indians of said tribe on the 19th March, 1867, amounting to \$8,200.

The claim was first presented to this Office by E. W. Wynkoop, United States agent for the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, on the 13th April, 1867. It was sent on the 16th May following to T. Murphy, superintendent Indian affairs for the central superintendency, to be presented to the Indians, as required by law. In consequence of military opera-

tions against the tribes named, the agent was not able to comply with the directions given him in the matter. On the 12th February, 1868, Superintendent Murphy returned the claim, with a letter from Agent Wynkoop, and also a certificate by the agent to the effect that Little Raven, head chief of the Arapahoes, acknowledged to him (Wynkoop) that the depredation was committed by a portion of the Arapaho tribe; and Superintendent Murphy, in his letter returning the claim, remarks that "Little Raven, head chief of the Arapahoes, informed the Indian peace commissioners at Medicine Lodge Creek that a portion of his young men and the Cheyennes took these mules." The admission of the act made in this way was not, however, considered by the Department a strict compliance with the law in the respect referred to, and on the 22d of January, 1870, the papers were transmitted to E. Hoag, the present superintendent of Indian affairs, with proper directions. Mr. Hoag, on the 10th February last, returned the claim, with a report of Agent Darlington, who says, that after a careful explanation of the facts appertaining to the case, the Arapahoes in council acknowledged the depredation as set forth.

The testimony in the case consists of the sworn statements of the claimant, S. Wedeles, and Owen Gilchrist, and, in my judgment, establishes the fact of the depredation as charged. That the price fixed upon the property stolen is fair and just may be questioned. I think \$150 for each mule, and also \$150 for "bell-mare," would be a reasonable and proper allowance, and I accordingly recommend that the claim be allowed upon that basis in the sum of \$6,150.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,
Commissioner.

Hon. C. DELANO,
Secretary of the Interior.

OFFICE CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO AGENCY, INDIAN TERRITORY,
Second month 10th, 1872.

ENOCH HOAG,
Superintendent Indian Affairs:

The inclosed claim of Hugo Wedeles, for a depredation alleged to have been committed by Arapaho Indians, was submitted to the chiefs and head-men of that tribe, in council, for investigation, and satisfaction therefor demanded. After a careful explanation of the facts pertaining to the claim, the Arapahoes acknowledged to having committed the depredation as set forth. From all the facts in this case, I believe the acknowledgment to be just.

Respectfully,

BRINTON DARLINGTON,
United States Indian Agent, Cheyennes and Arapahoes.

STATE OF KANSAS, *County of Davis:*

To the agent of the Arapaho Indians, Hon. E. W. Wynkoop:

Your petitioner, Hugo Wedeles, a loyal citizen of the United States, resident in the county of Mora, in the Territory of New Mexico, would respectfully state to you that on the 20th day of February, 1867, he started, under the care of Owen Gilchrist as wagon-master, two wagons, forty mules, and one bell-mare for the State of Kansas, at a place called Junction City, in order to return with goods, wares, and merchandise. Your petitioner would further state that said mules were his property, and said bell-mare, and worth at the time and place when taken, in cash, each, the sum of \$200, being picked mules, in good condition, and well broken to harness. Your petitioner would further state that while said wagons and mules were on the journey to the States, and

in camp at a point on the road to the States about fifteen miles above the Aubrey mail-station, on the Arkansas River, in the State of Kansas, about 10 o'clock at night, March 9, 1867, a party of Arapahoes, about six in number, stampeded, took, and drove away said forty mules and one mare belonging to him; said tribe of Indians then and there being in amity with the United States, and in the receipt of annuities from the United States. Your petitioner would further state that on the 11th day of March, 1867, notice was given to the commander of the post of Fort Dodge, Kansas, of said loss, but nothing has been done to recapture said property known to your petitioner. Your petitioner would further state that he has never obtained any payment or satisfaction for said property so taken, from said tribe of Indians, nor from any other source. Your petitioner further states that he has never, by himself, agent, or attorney, sought or attempted to obtain any private satisfaction or revenge of said tribe of Indians for or on account of said loss. Your petitioner would state that he submits herewith the proof of said loss, and asks that such steps may be taken in the premises as is provided by the acts of Congress for the payment of such losses. All of which is respectfully submitted to you.

HUGO WEDELES,
By JOHN S. WATTS,
His Attorney at Law.

STATE OF KANSAS, *County of Davis:*

I, Sigmund Wedeles, attorney in fact of Hugo Wedeles, upon my oath state that the matters and things in the above petition stated and set forth, so far as stated from my own knowledge, are true in substance and in fact; and so far as stated from the information of others he believes them to be true.

SIGMUND WEDELES.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27th March, 1867.

E. W. WYNKOOP,
United States Indian Agent for Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Apache Indians.

STATE OF KANSAS, *County of Davis:*

I, Owen Gilchrist, wagon-master of Hugo Wedeles, a resident of Mora, New Mexico, upon my oath, state that on the 9th of March, 1867, forty mules, of the value of \$200 each, and one mare, of the value of \$200, belonging to Hugo Wedeles, were taken from him on the Arkansas, at a point in the State of Kansas about fifteen miles west of Aubrey Station, on the road from Mora, New Mexico, to Junction City, Kansas, at about 10 o'clock at night by a party of six Arapaho Indians. This affiant further states that said Indians were at his camp the night previous, professed to be friendly, and were given supper and breakfast by him, and on the next night stole, ran off, and stampeded said animals, of which notice was given on the 11th March, 1867, to the commander of the post of Fort Dodge; but none of said property has been recaptured, nor was any effort made to do so by the troops at said post. This affiant would further state that all of such mules and said mare were branded with H. W. on the shoulder, and then with the additional brand of M. K. on the hip; and no attempt was made to obtain any private satisfaction or revenge for or on account of said loss, nor have any of said animals been recaptured. This affiant further states that he knows said Indians were Arapaho Indians, from their own statements, and from the fact that for the last fourteen years he has been passing almost monthly through the Indian country of the Arapaho Indians as hand and conductor of the Santa Fé stage, and as wagon-master. Said affiant further states that he is not related to said claimant, and has no interest in this claim; and further saith not.

OWEN GILCHRIST.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27th day of March, 1867.

E. W. WYNKOOP,
United States Indian Agent for Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Apache Indians.

UPPER ARKANSAS AGENCY,
February 1, 1868.

I certify that Little Raven, head chief of the Arapaho Indians, did acknowledge to me that the depredation set forth in the within claim was committed by a portion of his tribe, at the time and place stated.

E. W. WYNKOOP,
United States Indian Agent.

HUGO WEDELES.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Atchison, February 12, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to transmit a letter from Agent Wynkoop, of the 1st instant, inclosing the claim of Hugo Wedeles for depredations alleged to have been committed by a band of Arapaho Indians. Little Raven, head chief of the Arapahoes, informed the Indian peace commissioners, at Medicine Lodge Creek, that a portion of his young men and the Cheyennes took these mules.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. MURPHY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner, Washington, D. C.